

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 EA-11 TRSE-00 AID-20 OMB-01

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

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EA/ J: WPIEZ

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NEA/ INS: DKUX

EUR/ NE: CFLOYD

NEA: AHMEYER

ASIA/ SA: HREES

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R 221611 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097730

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN, UK, US

SUBJ: AID INDIA CONSORTIUM MEETING IN JUNE - UK QUESTION

REF: LONDON 5829

1. WE HAVE LONG BEEN CONCERNED THAT DEBT RELIEF BURDEN
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SHARING FOR INDIA BE EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED AMONG MAJOR DONORS AND WELCOME EXPRESSION UK INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION REPORTED REFTEL. (FYI: OUR CONCERN OVER BURDEN- SHARING ISSUE, AND ESPECIALLY THE PERFORMANCE OF FRANCE, ITALY AND JAPAN, WAS A MAJOR ELEMENT IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF DEBT RESCHEDULING PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY WORLD BANK FOR FY 1973. END FYI)

2. WHILE WE AGREEABLE TO IDEA OF US- UK TALKS, AS PRACTICAL MATTER WE UNCERTAIN ABOUT UTILITY BECAUSE OUR OWN CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES EXPECTED TO ARISE AT JUNE AID- INDIA CONSORTIUM MEETING IS NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY FAR ADVANCED. INDEED, WE HAVE ONLY TODAY (MAY 21) RECEIVED WORLD BANK REPORT FOR JUNE MEETING WHICH WILL PROVIDE BASIS FOR FORMULATION USG POSITION. WE WOULD BE PERFECTLY WILLING, IN PRINCIPLE, DISCUSS WITH UK AND PERHAPS OTHERS, QUESTIONS AS PROPOSED BY UK BUT WOULD BELIEVE BEST TIME WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE CONSORTIUM MEETING.

3. NEVERTHELESS, WE PLEASED OFFER FOLLOWING ADVANCE AND STILL HIGHLY TENTATIVE INDICATION OUR THINKING ON SOME OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY UK:

A. AS STEP TOWARD IMPROVEMENT IN PRESENT BURDEN- SHARING SITUATION, WE WOULD CERTIANLY NOT RPT NOT OBJECT TO ANY DEMARCHES UK MIGHT WISH MAKE WITH JAPAN OR EUROPEANS CONCERNING THEIR AID TERMS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT RPT NOT WISH APPROACH JAPANESE OURSELVES ON INTEREST RATE OR OTHER AID TO INDIA MATTERS IN VIEW OF THE MANY OUTSTANDING AID, TRADE, AND OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES WITH JAPAN.

B. RE DEBT RESCHEDULING, WE DO EXPECT THAT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN DEGREE OF BURDEN SHARING OVER LAST YEAR WILL BE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OUR CONSIDERATION THIS PROBLEM.

C. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON OUR POSITION FOR THE CONSORTIUM MEETING. AS WE ARE FEELING OUR WAY SLOWLY INTO NEW BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA, WE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN SORT OF MULTILATERAL INITIATIVE BRITISH APPEAR
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TO HAVE IN MIND. PORTER

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